

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-124)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2003, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 10, 2003.

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CREATING JOBS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many of us will be paying tribute to those who lost their lives on 9-11. But I rise today to speak of the continuing plight of the unemployed in this Nation.

On this past Monday, I held an economic forum on the unemployed in my congressional district. Houston, Texas has an unemployment rate of 7.2 percent. It is in the top 5 States of the Nation. And the striking factor of that particular session was the pain of those chronically unemployed.

The very fact that the large corporations that have received these very enormous tax cuts by this administration has done nothing to retain jobs or to create jobs. It is imperative that we work with the Department of Labor and this Congress to insist upon incentives to be given to large corporations on the basis only of them retaining or creating jobs. We have ceased to become a power in manufacturing and we are not hiring or creating the opportunity for jobs for recent graduates, for working students, and/or for those indi-

viduals trying to support their families. This is intolerable and it is not reflective of the intelligence and opportunity that we represent in this country.

Corporations and this Nation must turn their eyes toward creating jobs.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT URIBE ATTACKS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over the past 3 years, I have raised many questions regarding U.S. policy in Colombia. In July, working with my good colleague from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the ranking member of the House Committee on Armed Service, I offered an amendment that would have made a modest reduction in U.S. military aid to the Colombian armed forces as a signal of grave concern about the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Colombia and the continuing ties between the Colombian military and paramilitary forces.

That measure was defeated, in part, because Members of Congress were reassured by Secretary of State Colin Powell and the Colombian government that President Uribe is a strong supporter of human rights and an ally in the fight against on terrorism.

Unfortunately, throughout the month of August and the first 10 days of September, the human rights situation in Colombia has deteriorated even further. Scores of trade union and human rights leaders have been detained by official government forces in Arauca, one of President Uribe's highly militarized showcase provinces and where nearly 300 U.S. military personnel are active in the counter-insurgency war. And what was their crime? Quite simply, they denounced the links between government security forces and the paramilitary groups in the region.

According to Amnesty International, the detentions "appear to be part of an ongoing coordinated campaign to undermine the work of trade unionists and human rights activists and to expose those sectors to increased attack from army-backed paramilitaries."

Also in August, the Commander in Chief of the Colombian Armed Forces, General Jorge Enrique Mora Rangel, held a press conference in which it was alleged that a village of resettled refugees who were trying to protect themselves from the armed actors by putting barbed wire around their village

were somehow instead "a FARC-controlled concentration camp," a remark that puts these refugees and the humanitarian organizations that serve them, including the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, at further risk.

These accusations were made shortly after the Colombian Constitutional Court issued a decision allowing some of these organizations to proceed with a lawsuit against General Rito Alejo del Rio, for human rights abuses carried out when he was the Commander of the 17th Brigade in northwestern Colombia.

Over the past few months, one public attack after another against human rights defenders and organizations has been made by the very highest-ranking members of Colombia's government and military, culminating this week in statement by President Uribe himself.

On Monday, September 8, President Uribe, in a speech to Colombian military personnel, attacked human rights organizations as "politickers at the service of terrorism." President Uribe stated that human rights groups in Colombia are "terrorist agents and cowards who hide their political ideas behind human rights."

These highly inflammatory and dangerous remarks came on the same day as some 80 human rights groups released a report critical of President Uribe's security measures, which, in their view, have increased repression against the civilian population. The report was issued by some of Colombia's most respected human rights groups, including the Colombian Commission of Jurists, the Consultancy for Human Rights, and the Jesuit-affiliated Center for Popular Education and Investigation.

Equally disturbing, in President Uribe's speech to the military, the word "terrorist" is only used in reference to left-wing guerrilla forces; the paramilitary forces are referred to as "private justice groups," even though it is the paramilitary forces that are responsible for 70 percent of the human rights violations committed against the civilian population and nearly all attacks against labor leaders and human rights defenders, and are on the U.S. State department's list of terror organizations.

All of us in Congress have seen this pattern before.

We know that when high government and military officials start labelling leaders and organizations as "terrorists" or "sympathizers," their death soon follow.

When President Uribe made such statements, he knowingly and deliberately placed these democratic actors at great risk. The right to criticize, to disagree with official doctrine is a cornerstone of democracy.

Let me be clear: Colombia is not threatened by national and international human rights organizations, U.N. officials, judges, or Colombian government officials whose responsibility it is to protect and promote human rights.